**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

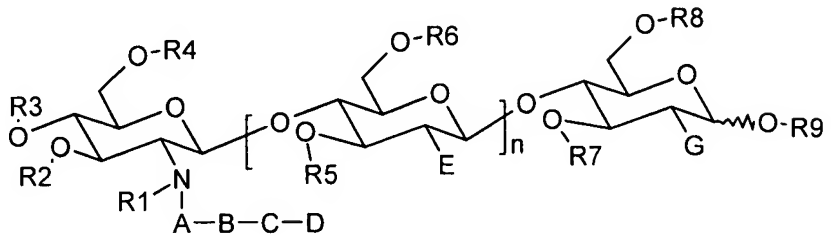
**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 53 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)




(I)

in which

n represents 1, 2 or 3;

A represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of -C(O)-, -C(S)-, and $-CH_2-$, ~~-CHR$^{10}$-, -CR$^{10}$R$^{11}$-, -C(O)O-, -C(O)S-, -C(S)O-, -C(S)S-, -C(O)NH-, -C(NH)NH- and -C(S)NH-~~;

B ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of

an arylene; and

~~a heteroarylene comprising 1or 2hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

a naphthylene;

~~a heteronaphthylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each;~~

~~a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic or heteroaromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each and comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~a biphenylene; or a~~

~~heterobiphenylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~these groups possibly being substituted with one or two substituents $R^{12}$ and $R^{13}$ chosen, independently of each other, from halogen, CN, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)NR^{15}R^{16}$, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{14}$, $SR^{14}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $C_{1-6}$-alkyl;~~

C represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, $-CH_2-$, ~~$-CHR^{17}-$, $-CR^{17}R^{18}-$, -NH- and $-NR^{19}$~~ and CH-($C_1$-$C_6$alkyl);

D represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

E and G represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, OH, ~~$OR^{20}$, $NH_2$ and $NHR^{20}$~~ $OC(O)CH_3$ and $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, C(O)H and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^6$, ~~$R^{t4}$, $R^{t5}$, $R^{t6}$ and $R^{t9}$~~ represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $C(O)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl and $-C(NH)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

$R^4$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl and $R^{21}$;

$R^5$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl and $R^{22}$;

$R^7$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, arabinosyl and $R^{23}$;

$R^8$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl, methylfucosyl, sulfofucosyl, acetylfucosyl, arabinosyl, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1$-$_8alkyl)_4$ and $R^{24}$;

$R^9$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, mannose, glycerol and $R^{25}$;

~~$R^{t0}$, $R^{t1}$, $R^{t7}$ and $R^{t8}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl and F;~~

~~$R^{20}$~~; $R^{21}$, $R^{22}$, $R^{23}$, $R^{24}$ and $R^{25}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of $C(O)C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl and $-C(NH)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers, enantiomers and/or diastereoisomers, tautomers, salts, N-oxides, sulfoxides, sulfones, and metal or metalloid complexes thereof[[,]] ~~which~~ that are agriculturally acceptable~~, such as lithium, sodium, potassium and tetraalkylammonium salts~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (I) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, having at least one ~~or other~~ of the following characteristics~~, taken separately or in combination~~:

n represents 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2$-;

B represents a phenylene;

C represents -O-;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1$-$_8$ alkyl$)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

3. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (I) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1~~, simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2-$;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$; and

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1$-$_8$alkyl$)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (I) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2-$;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$; and

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (I) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1~~, simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2-$;

C represents -O-;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$; and

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (I) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1~~;~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2-$;

B represents a phenylene;

C represents -O-;

D represents a linear hydrocarbon-based chain containing 11 carbons, which is saturated, or unsaturated between carbons 4 and 5;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

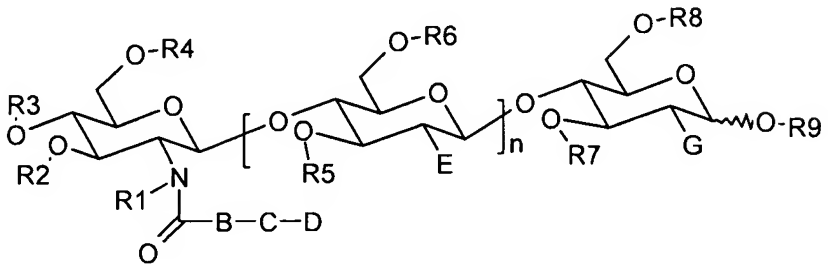
$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$; and

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

7. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1 and of formula (Ia)




(Ia)

in which

n represents 1, 2 or 3,

B ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of

an arylene~~;~~

~~a heteroarylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

and a naphthylene;

~~a heteronaphthylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each;~~

~~a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic or heteroaromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each and comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~a biphenylene; or a~~

~~heterobiphenylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~these groups possibly being substituted with one or two substituents $R^{12}$ and $R^{13}$ chosen, independently of each other, from halogen, CN, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)NR^{15}R^{16}$, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{14}$, $SR^{14}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;~~

C represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, $-CH_2-$, ~~$-CHR^{17}-$, $-CR^{17}R^{18}-$, -NH- or $-NR^{19}$~~ and CH-($C_1$-$C_6$alkyl);

D represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

E and G represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, OH, ~~$OR^{20}$, $NH_2$, $NHR^{20}$~~ $OC(O)CH_3$ and $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, C(O)H, and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, and $R^6$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $C(O)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_1$-$_6$-alkyl,

-C(O)$NH_2$, -C(S)$NH_2$, -C(NH)$NH_2$, -C(O)$NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)$NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl ~~or~~ and -C(NH)$NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

$R^4$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl ~~or~~ and $R^{21}$;

$R^5$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl ~~or~~ and $R^{22}$;

$R^7$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, arabinosyl ~~or~~ and $R^{23}$;

$R^8$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl, methylfucosyl, sulfofucosyl, acetylfucosyl, arabinosyl, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1$-$_8alkyl)_4$ ~~or~~ and $R^{24}$;

$R^9$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, mannose, glycerol ~~or~~ and $R^{25}$;

~~$R^{10}$, $R^{11}$, $R^{17}$ and $R^{18}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or F;~~

~~$R^{14}$, $R^{15}$, $R^{16}$ and $R^{19}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from H or $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$OC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$NH_2$, -C(S)$NH_2$, -C(NH)$NH_2$, -C(O)$NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)$NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl or -C(NH)$NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl;~~

~~$R^{20}$,~~ $R^{21}$, $R^{22}$, $R^{23}$, $R^{24}$ and $R^{25}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of C(O)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$OC_1$-$_6$-alkyl,

$-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl or $-C(NH)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers, enantiomers and/or diastereoisomers, tautomers, salts, N-oxides, sulfoxides, sulfones, and metal or metalloid complexes thereof~~, which~~ that are agriculturally acceptable. ~~Among the compounds defined above, the most important compounds are the salts, more particularly the lithium, sodium, potassium or tetraalkylammonium salts.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Ia) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 7, having at least one or other of the following characteristics~~, taken separately or in combination~~:

n represents 2 or 3;

B represents a phenylene;

C represents -O-;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

9. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Ia) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 7~~;~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

10. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Ia) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 7~~;~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

11. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Ia) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 7~~,~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

C represents -O-;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

12. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Ia) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 7~~,~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

B represents a phenylene;

C represents -O-;

D represents a linear hydrocarbon-based chain containing 11 carbons, which is saturated, or unsaturated between carbons 4 and 5;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

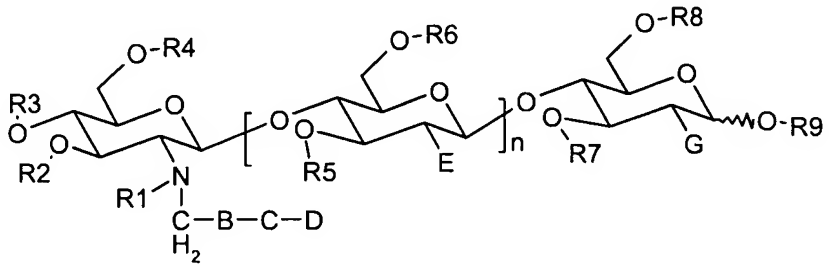
$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

13. (Withdrawn) The compound as claimed in claim 1 and of formula (Ib)




(Ib)

in which

n represents 1, 2 or 3,

B represents

an arylene;

a heteroarylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

a naphthylene;

a heteronaphthylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each;

a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic or heteroaromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each and comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

a biphenylene; or a

heterobiphenylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

these groups possibly being substituted with one or two substituents $R^{12}$ and $R^{13}$ chosen, independently of each other, from halogen, CN, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)NR^{15}R^{16}$, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $-NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{14}$, $SR^{14}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

C represents a substituent chosen from -O-, -S-, $-CH_2-$, $-CHR^{17}-$, $-CR^{17}R^{18}-$, -NH- or $-NR^{19}$;

D represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

E and G represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from H, OH, $OR^{20}$, $NH_2$, $NHR^{20}$;

$R^1$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, C(O)H, and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, and $R^6$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $C(O)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl or $-C(NH)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

$R^4$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or $R^{21}$;

$R^5$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl or $R^{22}$;

$R^7$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, arabinosyl or $R^{23}$;

$R^8$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl, methylfucosyl, sulfofucosyl, acetylfucosyl, arabinosyl, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1$-$_8$alkyl$)_4$ or $R^{24}$;

$R^9$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, mannose, glycerol or $R^{25}$;

$R^{10}$, $R^{11}$, $R^{17}$ and $R^{18}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or F;

$R^{14}$, $R^{15}$, $R^{16}$ and $R^{19}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from H or $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)O$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$NH_2$, -C(S)$NH_2$, -C(NH)$NH_2$, -C(O)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or -C(NH)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

$R^{20}$, $R^{21}$, $R^{22}$, $R^{23}$, $R^{24}$ and $R^{25}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from C(O)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)O$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$NH_2$, -C(S)$NH_2$, -C(NH)$NH_2$, -C(O)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or -C(NH)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers, enantiomers and/or diastereoisomers, tautomers, salts, N-oxides, sulfoxides, sulfones, and metal or metalloid complexes thereof, which are agriculturally acceptable. Among the compounds defined above, the most important compounds are the salts, more particularly the lithium, sodium, potassium or tetraalkylammonium salts.

14. (Withdrawn) The compound of formula (Ib) as claimed in claim 13, having one or other of the following characteristics, taken separately or in combination:

n represents 2 or 3;

B represents a phenylene;

C represents -O-;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents H or $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ represents H, $C(O)CH_3$ or $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl or methylfucosyl.

15. (Withdrawn) The compound of formula (Ib) as claimed in claim 13, simultaneously having the following characteristics:

n represents 2 or 3;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents H or $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ represents H, $C(O)CH_3$ or $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl or methylfucosyl.

16. ( Withdrawn) The compound of formula (Ib) as claimed in claim 13 simultaneously having the following characteristics:

n represents 2 or 3;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents H or $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ represents H, $C(O)CH_3$ or $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl or methylfucosyl.

17. (Withdrawn) The compound of formula (Ib) as claimed in claim 13 simultaneously having the following characteristics:

n represents 2 or 3;

C represents -O-;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents H or $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ represents H, $C(O)CH_3$ or $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl or methylfucosyl.

18. (Withdrawn) The compound of formula (Ib) as claimed in claim 13 simultaneously having the following characteristics:

n represents 2 or 3;

B represents a phenylene;

C represents -O-;

D represents a linear hydrocarbon-based chain containing 11 carbons, which is saturated, or unsaturated between carbons 4 and 5;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

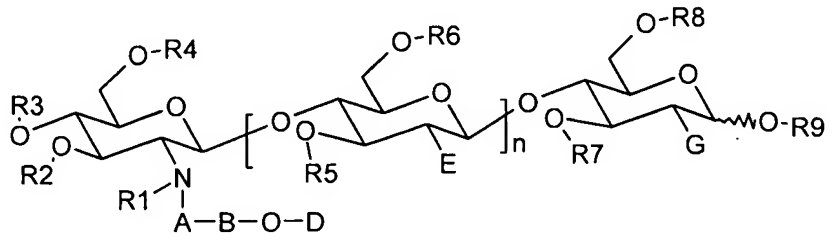
$R^1$ represents H or $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ represents H, $C(O)CH_3$ or $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl or methylfucosyl.

19. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1 and of formula (Ic)




(Ic)

in which

n represents 1, 2 or 3;

A represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of -C(O)-, -C(S)-, and $-CH_2-$, ~~-CHR$^{10}$-, -CR$^{10}$R$^{11}$-, -C(O)O-, -C(O)S-, -C(S)O-, -C(S)S-, -C(O)NH-, -C(NH)NH- or -C(S)NH-~~;

B ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of

an arylene~~;~~

~~a heteroarylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

and a naphthylene;

~~a heteronaphthylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each;~~

~~a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic or heteroaromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each and comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~a biphenylene; or a~~

~~heterobiphenylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~these groups possibly being substituted with one or two substituents $R^{12}$ and $R^{13}$ chosen, independently of each other, from halogen, CN, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)NR^{15}R^{16}$, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{14}$, $SR^{14}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;~~

D represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

E and G represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, OH, ~~$OR^{20}$, $NH_2$, $NHR^{20}$~~ $OC(O)CH_3$ and $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, C(O)H, and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, and $R^6$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $C(O)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl ~~or~~ and $-C(NH)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

$R^4$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl ~~or~~ and $R^{21}$;

$R^5$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl ~~or~~ and $R^{22}$;

$R^7$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, arabinosyl ~~or~~ and $R^{23}$;

$R^8$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl, methylfucosyl, sulfofucosyl, acetylfucosyl, arabinosyl, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1$-$_8alkyl)_4$ ~~or~~ and $R^{24}$;

$R^9$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, mannose, glycerol ~~or~~ and $R^{25}$;

~~$R^{10}$, $R^{11}$, $R^{17}$ and $R^{18}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or F;~~

~~$R^{14}$, $R^{15}$, $R^{16}$ and $R^{19}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from H or $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)O$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$NH_2$, -C(S)$NH_2$, -C(NH)$NH_2$, -C(O)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or -C(NH)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;~~

~~$R^{20}$,~~ $R^{21}$, $R^{22}$, $R^{23}$, $R^{24}$ and $R^{25}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of C(O)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)O$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$NH_2$, -C(S)$NH_2$, -C(NH)$NH_2$, -C(O)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl ~~or~~ and -C(NH)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers, enantiomers and/or diastereoisomers, tautomers, salts, N-oxides, sulfoxides, sulfones, and metal or metalloid complexes thereof~~, which~~ that are agriculturally acceptable. ~~Among the compounds defined above, the most important compounds are the salts, more particularly the lithium, sodium, potassium or tetraalkylammonium salts.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Ic) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 19, having at least one ~~or other~~ of the following characteristics~~, taken separately or in combination~~:

n represents 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2-$;

B represents a phenylene;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

21. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Ic) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 19~~;~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2-$;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

22. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Ic) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 19~~,~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2-$;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

23. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Ic) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 19~~,~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2-$;

B represents a phenylene;

D represents a linear hydrocarbon-based chain containing 11 carbons, which is saturated, or unsaturated between carbons 4 and 5;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

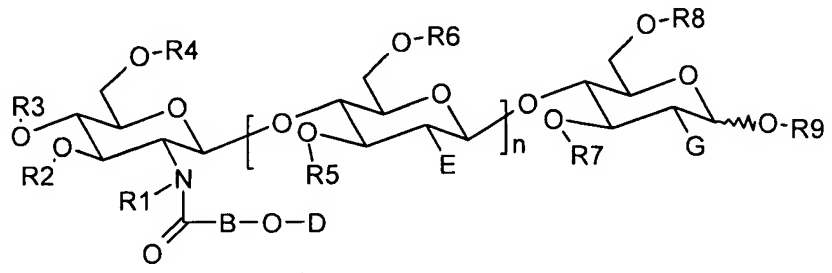
$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

24. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1 and of formula (Id)




(Id)

in which

n represents 1, 2 or 3;

B ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of

an arylene~~;~~

~~a heteroarylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

and a naphthylene;

~~a heteronaphthylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each;~~

~~a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic or heteroaromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each and comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~a biphenylene; or a~~

~~heterobiphenylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~these groups possibly being substituted with one or two substituents $R^{t2}$ and $R^{t3}$ chosen, independently of each other, from halogen, CN, $C(O)OR^{t4}$, $C(O)NR^{t5}R^{t6}$, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{t4}$, $SR^{t4}$, $NR^{t5}R^{t6}$ and $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;~~

D represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

E and G represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, OH, ~~$OR^{20}$, $NH_2$, $NHR^{20}$~~ $OC(O)CH_3$ and $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, C(O)H, and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, and $R^6$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $C(O)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl ~~or~~ and $-C(NH)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

$R^4$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl ~~or~~ and $R^{21}$;

$R^5$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl ~~or~~ and $R^{22}$;

$R^7$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, arabinosyl ~~or~~ and $R^{23}$;

$R^8$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl, methylfucosyl, sulfofucosyl, acetylfucosyl, arabinosyl, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1$-$_8$alkyl$)_4$ ~~or~~ and $R^{24}$;

$R^9$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, mannose, glycerol ~~or~~ and $R^{25}$;

~~$R^{10}$, $R^{11}$, $R^{17}$ and $R^{18}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or F;~~

~~$R^{14}$, $R^{15}$, $R^{16}$ and $R^{19}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from H or $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)O$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$NH_2$, -C(S)$NH_2$, -C(NH)$NH_2$, -C(O)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or -C(NH)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;~~

~~$R^{20}$,~~ $R^{21}$, $R^{22}$, $R^{23}$, $R^{24}$ and $R^{25}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of C(O)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)O$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(O)$NH_2$, -C(S)$NH_2$, -C(NH)$NH_2$, -C(O)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, -C(S)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl ~~or~~ and -C(NH)NH$C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers, enantiomers and/or diastereoisomers, tautomers, salts, N-oxides, sulfoxides, sulfones, and metal or metalloid complexes thereof~~, which~~ that are agriculturally acceptable. ~~Among the compounds defined above, the most important compounds are the salts, more particularly the lithium, sodium, potassium or tetraalkylammonium salts.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Id) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 24, having at least one ~~or other~~ of the following characteristics~~, taken separately or in combination~~:

n represents 2 or 3;

B represents a phenylene;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

26. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Id) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 24~~;~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

27. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Id) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 24~~,~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

28. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (Id) ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 24~~,~~ ~~simultaneously having the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n represents 2 or 3;

B represents a phenylene;

D represents a linear hydrocarbon-based chain containing 11 carbons, which is saturated, or unsaturated between carbons 4 and 5;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

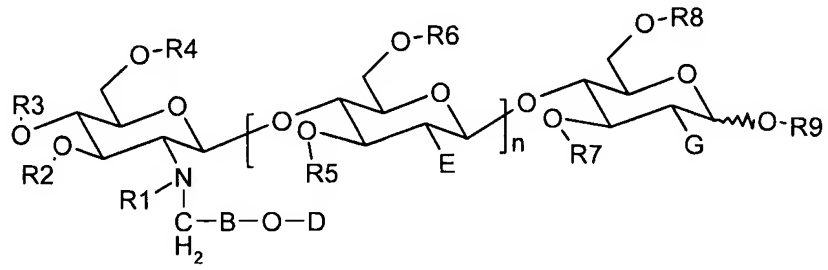
$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl ~~or~~ and methylfucosyl.

29. (Withdrawn) The compound as claimed in claim 1 and of formula (Ie)




(Ie)

in which

n represents 1, 2 or 3;

B represents

an arylene;

a heteroarylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

a naphthylene;

a heteronaphthylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each;

a divalent radical derived from 2 fused aromatic or heteroaromatic rings containing 5 or 6 atoms each and comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

a biphenylene; or a

heterobiphenylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

these groups possibly being substituted with one or two substituents $R^{12}$ and $R^{13}$ chosen, independently of each other, from halogen, CN, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)NR^{15}R^{16}$, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $-NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{14}$, $SR^{14}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

D represents a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

E and G represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from H, OH, $OR^{20}$, $NH_2$, $NHR^{20}$;

$R^1$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, C(O)H, and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, and $R^6$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $C(O)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl or $-C(NH)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

$R^4$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or $R^{21}$;

$R^5$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl or $R^{22}$;

$R^7$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, arabinosyl or $R^{23}$;

$R^8$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, fucosyl, methylfucosyl, sulfofucosyl, acetylfucosyl, arabinosyl, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1$-$_8$alkyl$)_4$ or $R^{24}$;

$R^9$ represents a substituent chosen from H, $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, mannose, glycerol or $R^{25}$;

$R^{10}$, $R^{11}$, $R^{17}$ and $R^{18}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl or F;

$R^{14}$, $R^{15}$, $R^{16}$ and $R^{19}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from H or $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl or $-C(NH)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

$R^{20}$, $R^{21}$, $R^{22}$, $R^{23}$, $R^{24}$ and $R^{25}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent chosen from $C(O)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl or $-C(NH)NHC_1$-$_6$-alkyl;

and also the possible geometrical and/or optical isomers, enantiomers and/or diastereoisomers, tautomers, salts, N-oxides, sulfoxides, sulfones, and metal or metalloid complexes thereof, which are agriculturally acceptable. Among the compounds defined above, the most important

compounds are the salts, more particularly the lithium, sodium, potassium or tetraalkylammonium salts.

30. (Withdrawn) The compound of formula (Ie) as claimed in claim 29, having one or other of the following characteristics, taken separately or in combination:

n represents 2 or 3;

B represents a phenylene;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents H or $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ represents H, $C(O)CH_3$ or $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl or methylfucosyl.

31. (Withdrawn) The compound of formula (Ie) as claimed in claim 29, simultaneously having the following characteristics:

n represents 2 or 3;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents H or $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ represents H, $C(O)CH_3$ or $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl or methylfucosyl.

32. (Withdrawn) The compound of formula (Ie) as claimed in claim 29, simultaneously having the following characteristics:

n represents 2 or 3;

D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 3 to 17 carbon atoms;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents H or $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ represents H, $C(O)CH_3$ or $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl or methylfucosyl.

33. (Withdrawn) The compound of formula (Ie) as claimed in claim 29, simultaneously having the following characteristics:

n represents 2 or 3;

B represents a phenylene;

D represents a linear hydrocarbon-based chain containing 11 carbons, which is saturated, or unsaturated between carbons 4 and 5;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ represents H or $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^9$ represent H;

$R^4$ represents H, $C(O)CH_3$ or $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$, fucosyl or methylfucosyl.

34. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1~~, for which~~ wherein

B ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of

a naphthylene[[;]] and

an arylene;

~~a heteroarylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; or~~

~~a heteronaphthylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

these groups ~~possibly~~ optionally being substituted with one or two substituents ~~$R^{12}$ and $R^{13}$ chosen,~~ independently ~~of each other,~~ selected from the group consisting of halogen, CN, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)NR^{15}R^{16}$, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $-NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{14}$, $SR^{14}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $C_1\text{-}_6$-alkyl

wherein $R^{14}$, $R^{15}$, and $R^{16}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, $C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $C(O)C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl and $-C(NH)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl.

35. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1~~, for which~~ wherein

B represents

an arylene~~;~~

~~or a heteroarylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~these groups possibly~~ optionally being substituted with one or two substituents ~~$R^{12}$ and $R^{13}$ chosen,~~ independently ~~of each other,~~ selected from the group consisting of halogen, CN, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)NR^{15}R^{16}$, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $-NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{14}$, $SR^{14}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $C_{1-6}$-alkyl

wherein $R^{14}$, $R^{15}$, and $R^{16}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, $C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $C(O)C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl and $-C(NH)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl.

36. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1~~, for which~~ wherein

B represents

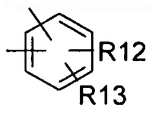
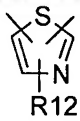
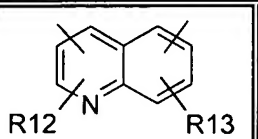
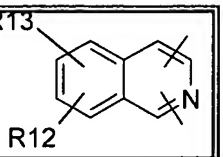
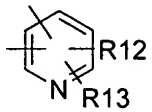
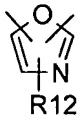
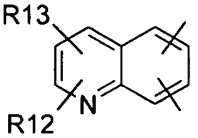
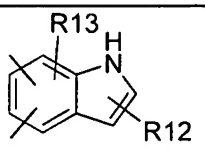
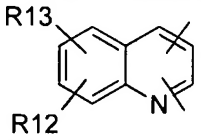
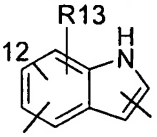
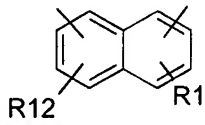
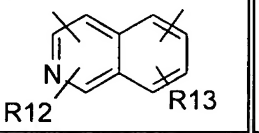
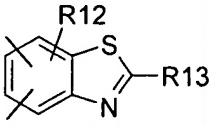
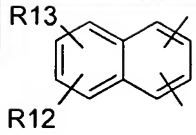
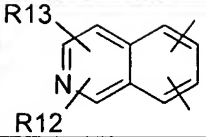
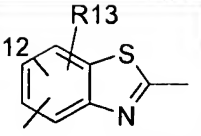
a phenylene~~; or a~~

~~heterophenylene comprising 1 or 2 hetero atoms chosen from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~these groups possibly~~ optionally being substituted with one or two substituents ~~$R^{12}$ and $R^{13}$ chosen,~~ independently ~~of each other,~~ selected from the group consisting of halogen, CN, $C(O)OR^{14}$, $C(O)NR^{15}R^{16}$, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $-NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{14}$, $SR^{14}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $C_{1-6}$-alkyl

wherein $R^{14}$, $R^{15}$, and $R^{16}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, $C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $C(O)C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(S)C_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(O)OC_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-C(S)NH_2$, $-C(NH)NH_2$, $-C(O)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl, $-C(S)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl and $-C(NH)NHC_{1-6}$-alkyl.

37. (Withdrawn) The compound as claimed in claim 1, for which B represents a substituent chosen from:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B1 |  | B6 |  | B11 |  | B16 |  |
| B2 |  | B7 |  | B12 |  | B17 |  |
| B3 |  | B8 |  | B13 |  | B18 |  |
| B4 |  | B9 |  | B14 |  | B19 |  |
| B5 |  | B10 |  | B15 |  | B20 |  |

in which $R^{12}$ and $R^{13}$ represent two substituents chosen, independently of each other, from halogen, CN, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $-NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{14}$, $SR^{14}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl.

38. (Withdrawn) The compound as claimed in claim 37, for which B represents a phenylene B1 that may be substituted with one or two substituents $R^{12}$ and $R^{13}$ chosen, independently of each other, from halogen, CN, $CF_3$, $OCF_3$, $-NO_2$, $N_3$, $OR^{14}$, $SR^{14}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $C_1$-$_6$-alkyl.

39. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1, having <u>at least</u> one of the following characteristics~~, taken separately or in combination~~:

n = 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2-$;

C represents -O-;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, and $R^7$ represent a hydrogen atom;

$R^4$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, fucosyl, methylfucosyl, sulfofucosyl, acetylfucosyl, arabinosyl, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$ and $SO_3N(C_{1-8}alkyl)_4$;

$R^9$ represents a hydrogen atom.

40. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1~~, having all of the following characteristics~~ wherein:

n = 2 or 3;

A ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of -C(O)- ~~or~~ and $-CH_2-$;

C represents -O-;

E and G represent $NHC(O)CH_3$;

$R^1$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and $C(O)CH_3$;

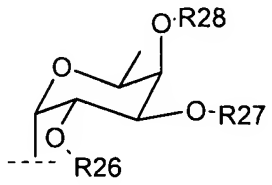
$R^2$, $R^3$, $R^5$, $R^6$, and $R^7$ represent a hydrogen atom;

$R^4$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$ ~~or~~ and $C(O)NH_2$;

$R^8$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, fucosyl, methylfucosyl, sulfofucosyl, acetylfucosyl, arabinosyl, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$ ~~or~~ and $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$; and

$R^9$ represents a hydrogen atom.

41. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1~~, for which~~ wherein $R^8$ ~~represents~~ is selected from the group consisting of H, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$, $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$ ~~or~~ and a substituent of formula:




~~in which~~ wherein

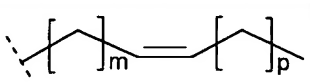
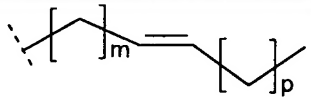
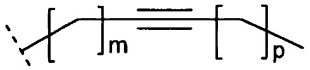
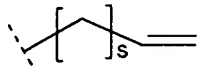
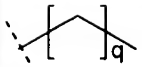
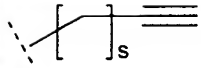
$R^{26}$ represents a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H and $CH_3$;

$R^{27}$ and $R^{28}$ represent, independently of each other, a substituent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of H, $C(O)CH_3$, $SO_3H$, $SO_3Li$, $SO_3Na$, $SO_3K$ and $SO_3N(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4$.

42. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 41~~, for which~~ wherein $R^{26}$, $R^{27}$ and $R^{28}$ ~~represent~~ each represents a hydrogen atom.

43. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, for which D represents a linear, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 7 to 15 carbon atoms.

44. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1, for which D represents a hydrocarbon-based chain according to one of the formulae represented below

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| D1 |  | D4 |  |
| D2 |  | D5 |  |
| D3 |  | D6 |  |

in which

m = 1 to 12

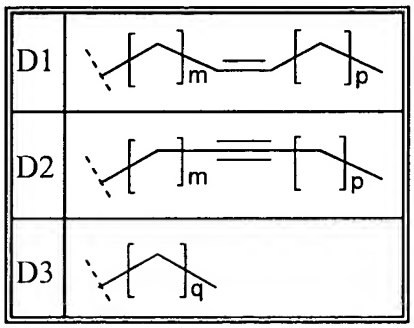
p = 0 to 11

q = 6 to 14

s = 5 to 13

with $m+p \leq 12$ and $m+p \geq 4$.

45. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 ~~or which~~ wherein D represents a hydrocarbon-based chain according to one of the formulae represented below




in which

m = 1 to 12

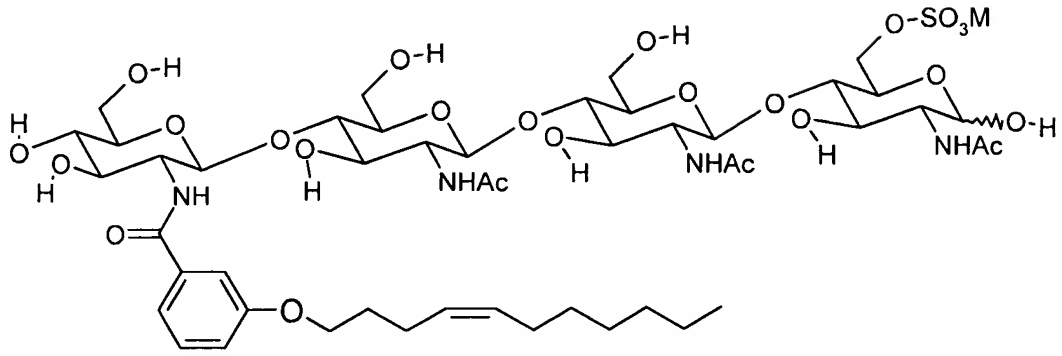
p = 0 to 11

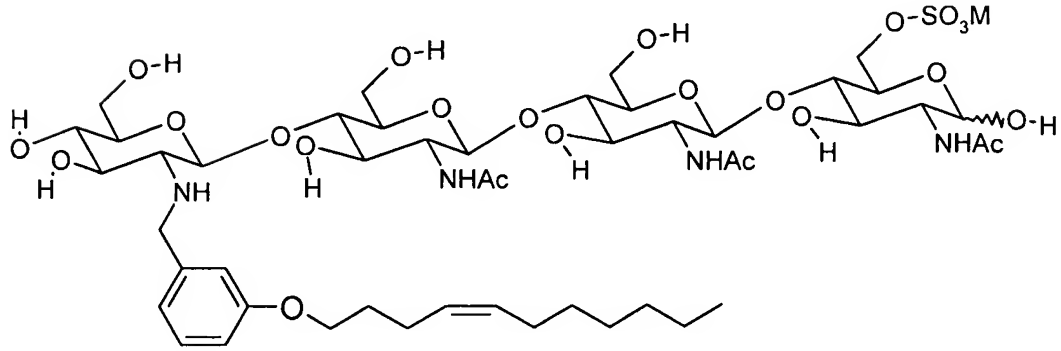
q = 6 to 14

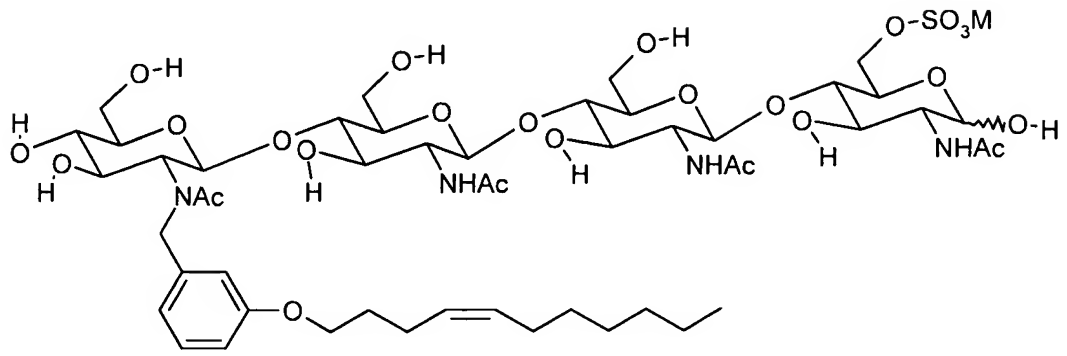
with $m+p \leq 12$ and $m+p \geq 4$;

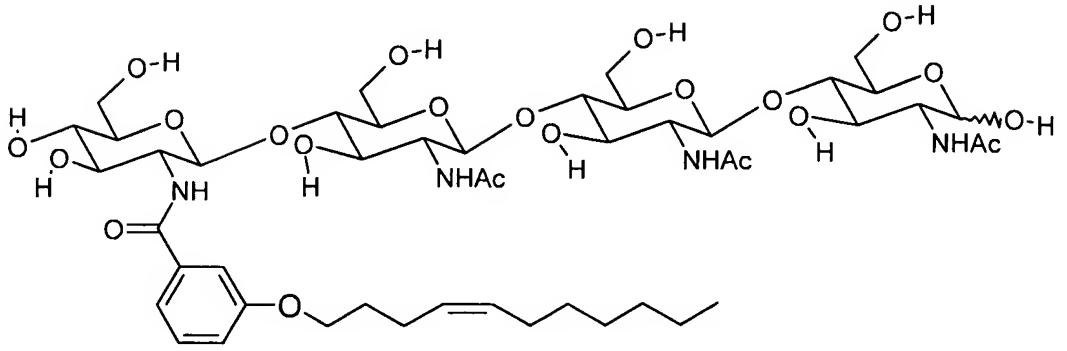
46. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1~~, for which~~ wherein D represents a linear hydrocarbon-based chain ~~containing~~ comprising 11 carbon atoms~~, which~~ that is saturated, or unsaturated between carbon atoms 4 and 5.

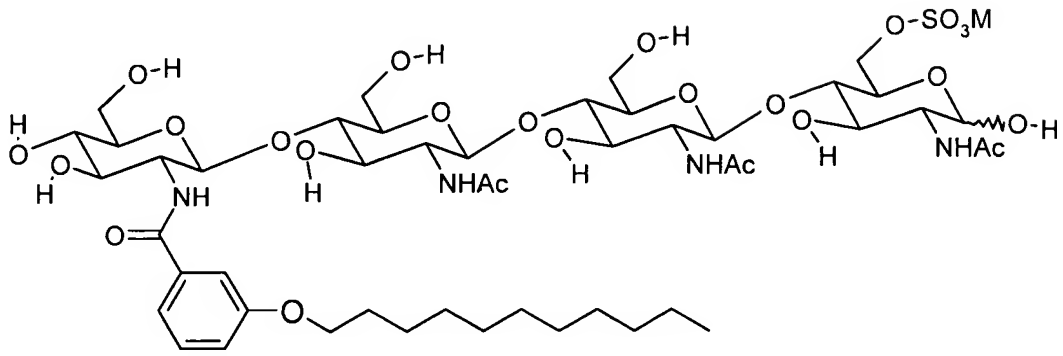
47. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, corresponding to one of the following formulae:

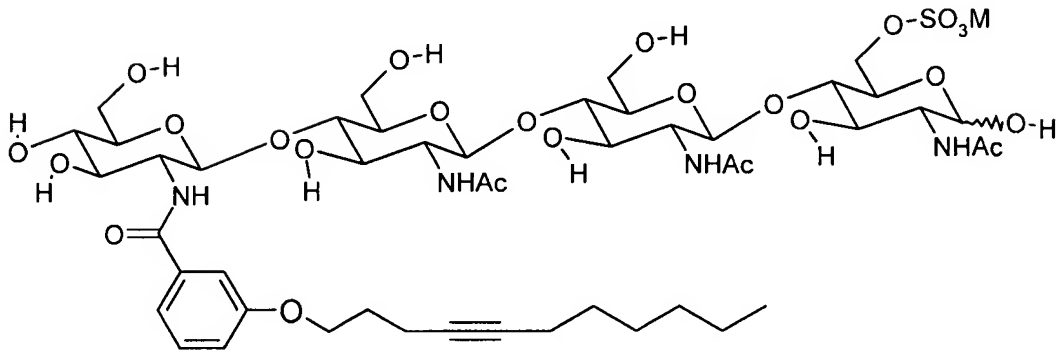

O-H
O-H
O-H
O-SO3M
NHAc
NHAc
NHAc
O-H
NH
O
O

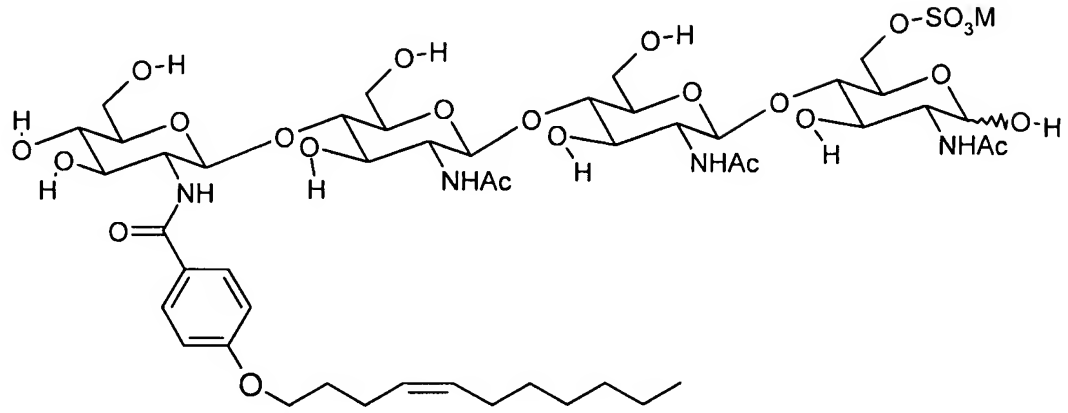

O-H
O-H
O-H
O-SO3M
NHAc
NHAc
NHAc
O-H
NH
O
O

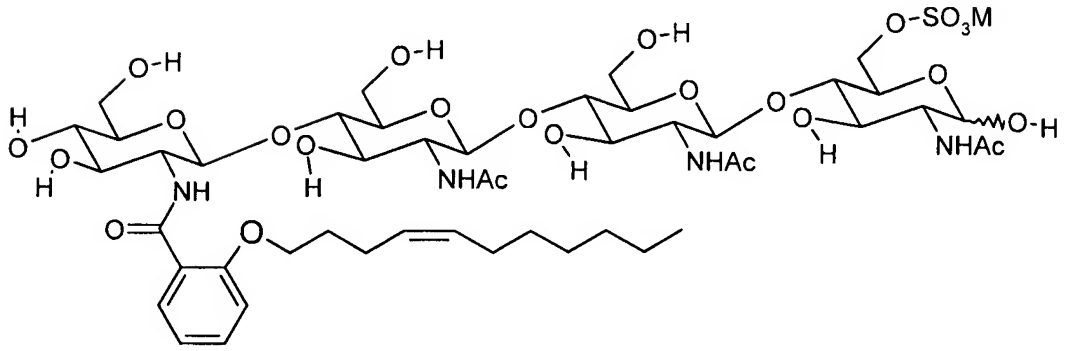

O-SO3M
O-H
NAc
NHAc
NHAc
NHAc
O-H

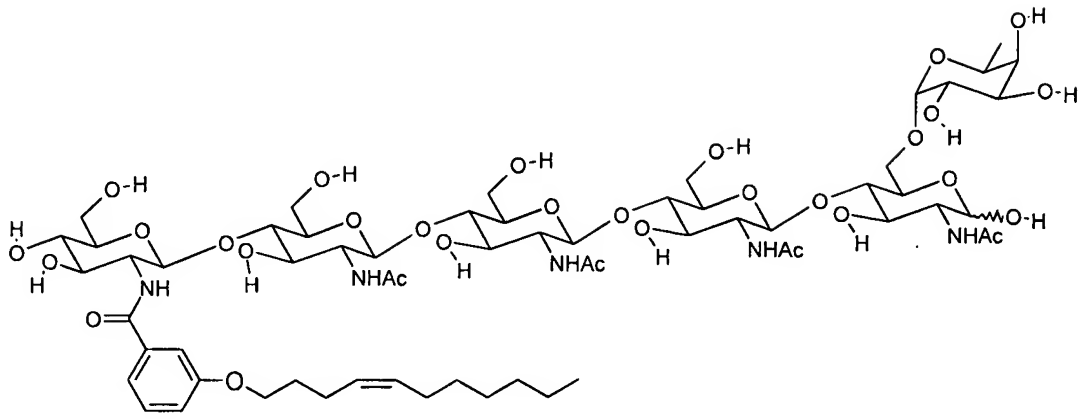

O-H
NH
NHAc
NHAc
NHAc
O-H


O-SO3M
O-H
NHAc
NH
O


O-SO3M
O-H
NHAc
NH
O


O-H
O-H
O-H
O-SO3M
NHAc
NHAc
NHAc
O-H
NH


O-H
O-H
O-H
O-SO3M
NHAc
NHAc
NHAc
O-H
NH



in which, when it is present, M represents a cation ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of $H^+$, $Li^+$, $Na^+$, $K^+$ and $(C_1\text{-}_8alkyl)_4N^+$.

48. (Withdrawn) The use of a compound as claimed in claim 1, as a nodulation factor for a plant.

49. (Withdrawn) The use as claimed in claim 48, characterized in that said plant is a legume.

50. (Withdrawn) The use as claimed in claim 49, characterized in that said legume is soybean, pea, horse bean, groundnut, bean, lupin, alfalfa or clover.

51. (Withdrawn) The use of a compound as claimed in claim 1, as a plant growth stimulation factor

52. (Withdrawn) A process for treating seeds, comprising the application, alone or as a combination with other active molecules, of one or more compound(s) as defined in claim 1.